



Department of Lands

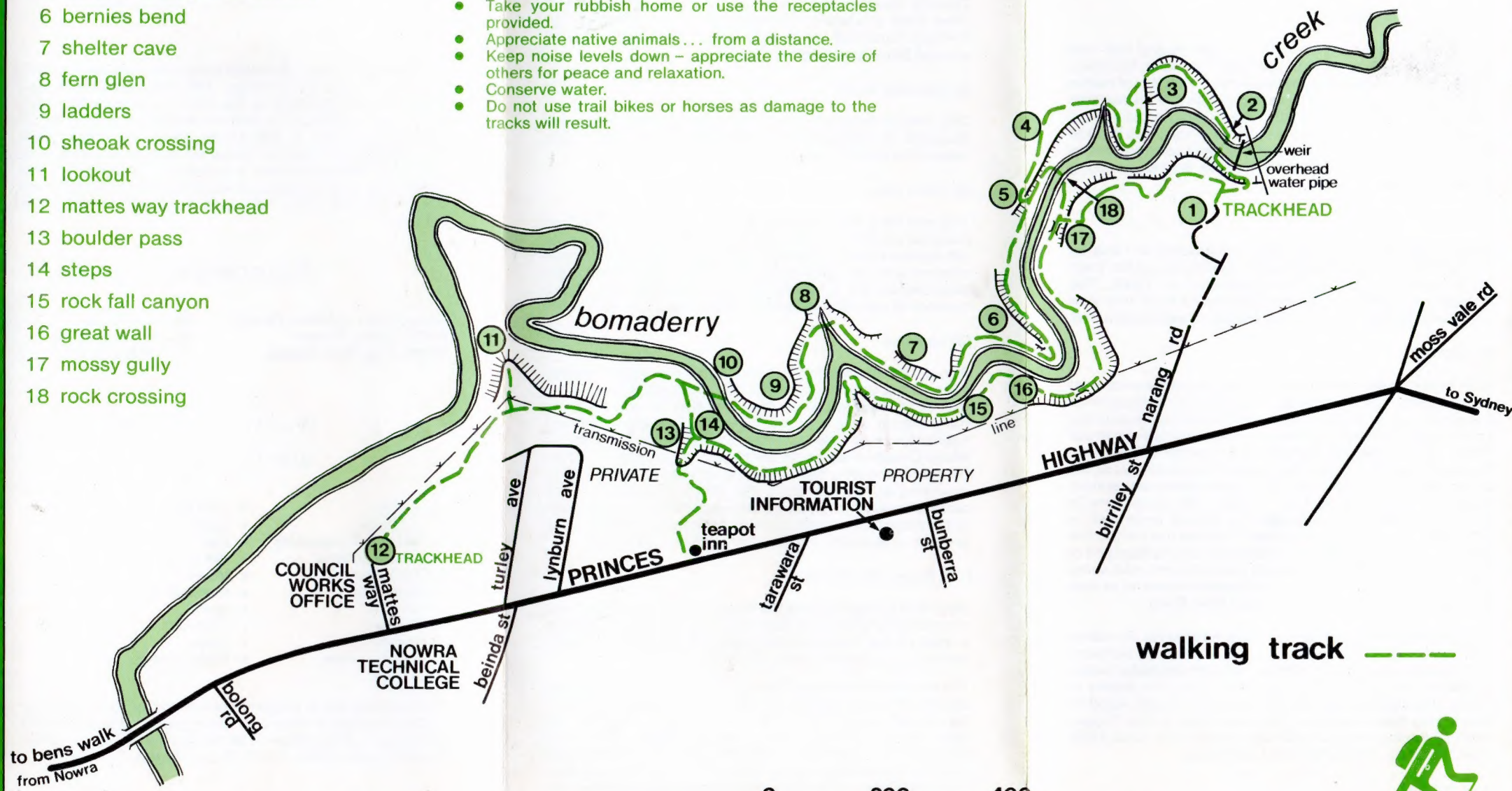
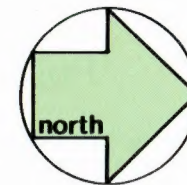
Crown Lands Office

Bomaderry Creek Walking Track



- 1 weir trackhead
- 2 weir crossing
- 3 clifftops
- 4 lookout
- 5 1st & 2nd loop intersection
- 6 bernies bend
- 7 shelter cave
- 8 fern glen
- 9 ladders
- 10 sheoak crossing
- 11 lookout
- 12 mattes way trackhead
- 13 boulder pass
- 14 steps
- 15 rock fall canyon
- 16 great wall
- 17 mossy gully
- 18 rock crossing

- Stay on the track – help protect bushland by not damaging any tree, shrub or plant.
- Observe fire bans – do not smoke near flammable vegetation – use barbeques.
- Do not carry firearms or other hunting equipment.
- Take your rubbish home or use the receptacles provided.
- Appreciate native animals... from a distance.
- Keep noise levels down – appreciate the desire of others for peace and relaxation.
- Conserve water.
- Do not use trail bikes or horses as damage to the tracks will result.



Bomaderry Creek Walking Track

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m





Walking Tracks in New South Wales

This scenic walking track is one of a network of tracks being established by the Crown Lands Office throughout New South Wales.

Although marked paths have been provided in parks for many years people have been given little opportunity of gaining access to the open countryside for walking. This system of marked walking tracks links various types of existing reserves and where necessary allows access through private property so that people will be assured they are not trespassing. Particular points of interest are highlighted by the provision of informative signs and brochures. This allows a wide cross-section of the community to enjoy the simple and healthy activity of cross-country walking.



Bomaderry Creek Walking Track

The Bomaderry Creek Walking Track has been designed and constructed by the Nowra Lands Office in association with the Shoalhaven City Council and the Rotary Club of Bomaderry.

Access to the principal trackhead, the Weir Trackhead (1) on the map, is from Narang Road off the Princes Highway, Bomaderry and a secondary trackhead (12) is located at the end of Mattes Way, also at Bomaderry. Alternatively there is an access to the track opposite the Tourist Information Centre and adjacent to the Teapot Inn.

The route of the track follows Bomaderry Creek which has carved a course through sandstone forming impressive cliffs, rock walls, overhangs and caves. Commencing at the Weir Trackhead there is a choice walks available;

- a 5.5km return walk along the eastern and western tracks taking about 3 hours;
- a 1.4km return walk along the western track to Rock Crossing (18), returning to the trackhead via Mossy Gully (17) taking about 1 hour.

Parking is available at both trackheads and picnic and barbecue facilities are located at the Weir Trackhead (1). As the water in Bomaderry Creek is not suitable for drinking, people are advised to carry drinking water. In addition, this track can be linked to the well established Bens Walk by following the footpath from Mattes Way Trackhead and crossing the Shoalhaven River Bridge. Bens Walk commences on the southern bank of the river and the combined tracks provide for a 11 km return walk taking about 5 hours (also see Bens Walk brochure).



Points of Interest

The following descriptive information refers to the corresponding numbered points identified on the map and signposted on the track.

(1) Weir Trackhead

This area was formerly a sandstone quarry and has now been developed to provide parking and picnic facilities. The perimeter is being revegetated with a variety of native trees and shrubs that will be representative of the species found in the immediate vicinity. The existing vegetation is dry sclerophyll forest and the more common trees include grey gum, red bloodwood, stringybark and spotted gum. In the understorey there is banksia, tea tree, kunzea, geebung hakea and hop bush.

(2) Weir Crossing

The Bomaderry Creek Weir was constructed in 1938 by the Berry Municipal Council which administered the town of Bomaderry until an amalgamation in 1948. The Bomaderry water supply was reticulated from this weir until the mid-sixties when the Flat Rock dam was constructed.

(3) Clifftops

After crossing the weir the track passes under a section of overhanging rock, the size of which gives an indication of the volume of water that has flowed along the creek in the past. Along the bank of the stream there are specimens of Water Gum (*Tristania laurina*) and several tall Spotted Gums (*Eucalyptus maculata*) growing in precarious spots along the cliff face. Spotted Gums have a deep root system capable of penetrating the cracks in the sandstone in search of water and consequently survive quite well in difficult situations. Once the track reaches the clifftop the vegetation is quite different. There are many specimens of Christmas Bush (*Ceratopetalum gummiferum*) and some large areas of Flannel Flower (*Actinotus helianthi*) as well as various species of Tea Tree and Mint Bush.

The swampy area provides an ideal habitat for Sundews (*Stylidium* sp.), a small perennial herb. The upper surfaces of its leaves are covered with fine hairs bordered by longer sensitive hairs which when touched cause the leaves to close. This enables the plant to trap small insects. Another interesting plant found in the same area is the Trigger Plant or Spring Back (*Drosera* sp.) which also traps small insects but by a quite different technique.

(4) Lookout

This vantage point provides a good view of the creek and of the variation in the structure of the vegetation along the creek bed and on the clifftops. At the base of the cliffs and

along the creek bed the environment is sheltered and the soil is deeper, richer in nutrients and has a higher moisture content. As a result the trees are taller with straight trunks and the forest canopy is semi-closed. The clifftops are more exposed to drying winds and bushfire and, although the soil is derived from the same parent rock (Nowra sandstone), it is generally poor and sandy. Here the dominant upper layer of eucalypts has an open canopy, the individual trees are not as tall and most have a gnarled appearance. The understorey or scrub layer is dominated by hardy plants such as banksias, hakeas and tea trees. Directly opposite the Lookout there is a lone Cabbage Tree Palm (*Livistona australis*) which is typical of the lowland rainforest which was once found further north around Berry and Jaspers Brush.

(6) Bernies Bend

This area is being planted with rainforest species by the students of Greenwell Point Primary School who have raised the plants from seedlings.

(8) Fern Glen

The soil here has been built up by the accumulation of material eroded and washed down from the cliffs and by silt deposited during floods. There is also a greater humus content and the soil is moist and acidic providing an ideal environment for a variety of ferns. Nearby there are a number of very tall Spotted Gums (*Eucalyptus maculata*).

(9) Ladders

About 100 metres beyond this point is a large Spotted Gum with a gnarled butt that has the appearance of the foot of an elephant. The creek bed here is an interesting nature study area with the numerous potholes providing habitat for small freshwater fish and tadpoles. The Eastern Water Dragon lives along the stream edges and can often be seen lying on a tree branch overhanging the water or scurrying across the rocks. The Water Dragon is a semi-aquatic lizard which does not venture beyond the vegetation at the edge of the creek. Its eggs are laid in the bank of the creek in a specially constructed nesting chamber.

(15) Rock Fall Canyon

Rock Fall Canyon shows the result of a weaker sub-strata of sandstone giving way to pressure from the layers above. A part of the twenty metre high cliff has tilted forward leaving a convenient pass for bushwalkers.

The section of track between here and the Rock Crossing passes through a small area of remnant rainforest vegetation. Rainforest is distinguished by its dense canopy or top layer of foliage which allows only limited penetration of sunlight to the undergrowth. Rainforest is therefore referred to as a 'closed' community of trees. As you walk through this area some of the distinctive features of rainforest can be observed. The mixture of plant life forms (trees, shrubs, vines, epiphytes) and the diversity of species is immediately obvious, especially if you note the variety of leaf shapes and contrasting bark textures. Some of the species re-

presented include Turpentine (*Syncarpia glomulifera*), Native Fig (*Ficus* sp.), Native Myrtle (*Diospyros* sp.), Coachwood (*Ceratopetalum apetalum*) and Lillypilly (*Acmena smithii*). Native orchids can also be seen growing on the cliff faces.

(16) Great Wall

Beneath this almost vertical sandstone escarpment the valley is more shaded and the vegetation is quite dense. An intricate web of roots and vines can be seen growing through the cracks and crevices in the sandstone.

(17) Mossy Gully

This gully provides habitat for songbirds such as the Grey Thrush and Golden Whistler. The Satin Bowerbird can often be seen feeding on the fruit of the Blueberry Ash (*Elaeocarpus reticulatus*) and the scratchings of Lyrebirds can be observed in the sandy areas. The male Satin Bowerbird constructs a bower of fine sticks which he generally decorates with a variety of blue objects. The bower and its immediate surroundings become the place from which the male calls and postures to attract the female.

Acknowledgements

Department of Main Roads
North Nowra Nursery
Bomaderry High School

Mr. Jim Walliss
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Mr. Mark Morton

walking tracks are located at

- Albury
- Armidale
- Berowra-Pennant Hills
- Blue Mountains
- Bomaderry
- Byron Bay
- Dubbo
- Grafton
- Griffith
- Hallidays Point
- Inverell

- Lake Macquarie
- Lapstone
- Lismore
- Mittagong
- Moree
- Narrandera
- Nowra
- Tamworth
- Taree
- Wagga Wagga

If you would like to suggest improvements to the track or make inquiries in regard to other tracks, please contact your local Lands Office at 64 North Street, Nowra or the Crown Lands Office, 23-33 Bridge Street, Sydney.



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